Ministry of MSME is implementing a number of schemes for the promotion and development of MSMEs including those engaged in footwear manufacturing. Major programmes include the Cluster Development Programme, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme and Skill Development Programmes. The Ministry of MSME has also set up the Central Footwear Training Institute in Agra for this purpose. The Institute conducts training and also provides common facilities services to the micro and small units. In addition, the Government is implementing the Indian Leather Development Programme for growth of the leather sector.

Bell metal industries in Assam

1784. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the facts that the age-old bell metal industries at Sarthebari and Hajo in Assam are facing various problems;

(b) the details of steps taken by Government to promote such small and cottage industries in Assam and North East Region;

(c) whether Government would take steps to supply raw material to such industry at the working place like Sarthebari and Hajo; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) : (a) to (d) Government of India and Government of Assam have taken various steps for promotion of bell and brass metal industry in small and cottage sector in Assam. Through its various schemes, Government of Assam has supported construction of godowns, factory sheds; use of improved tools; setting up of raw material depot etc. for the two clusters at Sarthebari and Hajo. Under the cluster development programme, Central Government, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has supported capacity building and marketing inputs for the Hajo cluster as well as provided financial assistance for setting up of a common facility centre at Hajo.

Employment generation through PMEGP

1785. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not fulfilled its promise of creating over six lakh jobs through the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme during 2008-09;

(b) whether this is due to delay in issuing guidelines and reluctance of banks to disburse loans;